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A3

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# Wilmington Town Crier

70TH YEAR NO. 52

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DECEMBER 26, 2024

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## Legacy Studio hosts Annual Toy Drive Holiday Party

Legacy Studios, a local Wilmington dance studio operated under the direction of Christine Bowman and Cait Grayson, held their annual holiday toy drive party at their location inside of Wilmington's OMNI Gym on Sunday, Dec. 15. At this event, recreational students and competition team members performed holiday dances and debuted their 2025 competition team pieces while collecting toys for the "Toys for Tots" collection drive. The competition team members made the toy delivery to the local Wilmington Fire Department Sunday afternoon. In the picture below with the firefighters are, from left, dancers Brooke Leone, Brianna Bogie, Kaylee Heffernan, Sofia Reitano, Abigail Leone, Charlotte Leone, and Molly Lydon. (Courtesy photo)



## School Committee receives superintendent's budget

By LIZZY HILL  
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — On Wednesday, Dec. 18, the School Committee received Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand's preliminary school department budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Brand began by thanking those who contributed to the budget including principals and the central of-

fice team. He explained that the guidelines for the preparation of this budget were to provide appropriate funding for services and programs deemed essential to Wilmington Public Schools students within a least restrictive environment, support the continual implementation of subject-related curriculum and instruction, and maintain contractual responsibilities and limits.

He mentioned that this includes maintaining appropriate levels of staffing and meeting the wide variety of student needs.

Some of the largest budget drivers for this preliminary budget were out of district transportation

## Superintendent proposes closing school campus to public

By LIZZY HILL  
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — During his report for the School Committee on Wednesday Dec. 18, Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand proposed the idea of closing the town's outdoor school campuses to the public during the school day.

Brand started by explaining that the outdoor campus is currently wide open to the public for use at any time. There are no expectations provided to the public or signs posted anywhere saying that the outside areas are closed to the public at all. However, he said that this is not the case in all school communities. Many have the school grounds closed to the public while school is

in session.

One of the reasons he gave for this suggestion was that allowing the public to use the school grounds presents an administrative challenge for teachers during recess. Brand also pointed out that the district takes great effort to make sure the interior of the schools are safe and secure at all times, but they don't spend as much time trying to secure the exterior of the schools.

After discussion with the school resource officers and other leadership team members, Brand confirmed that they were in favor of moving towards closing school grounds to the general public while school is in session. He was looking for the committee to indicate their support before

he moved forward, as the school grounds fall under School Committee purview during the day.

Some of the steps they could take may include creating a policy and putting up signs at all of the schools if the committee saw fit.

Committee member Jay Samaha asked if the closing of school grounds while school is in session would extend to the summer, as the CARES programs operate and use the outside of school grounds.

Brand replied that he didn't have an answer at that time.

Stephen Turner shared that he could see a strong logic and clear connection between this proposal and the recent mention of security audits. He added that the estab-

lishment of expectations for the public could reduce the time and effort required from school principals in securing school grounds.

He wondered if the security review pertained to school grounds specifically, and Brand answered in the negative.

Turner went on to point out that some, but not all, school buildings in town had school resource officers. He also identified that some of the school grounds aren't visible from inside the school, asking if they ever envisioned a need to request occasional extra security assistance from the police department.

Brand provided that some school resource

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C M K

## Wilmington Library News:

# LEGO building on Friday, Jan. 3

The library will be closing early on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m. and will remain closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Years.

### Adult Programs

#### Needleworkers at Night

Monday, Dec. 30, 6 p.m. These nighttime sessions are perfect for anyone who does any kind of needle craft but can't make it to Needleworkers during the day! Drop-in. Now meeting every Monday in the cozy seating area on the first floor of the Library.

#### Drop-in Tech Help

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, 2 p.m. Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

### Youth Programs

#### STEAM Team

Monday, Dec. 30, 6 p.m. Learn and have fun at the same time in this engaging STEAM program! Grades K-5

#### LEGO Building

Friday, Jan. 3, 3:45 p.m. Build with LEGOs at the same time as other LEGO fans and display what you make in the library! Grades K-5

#### Additional Information

**Book Store Next Door**  
The Book Store Next Door will be open only on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in January and February. Wednesday hours will begin again on March 5.

Shop discount books! Paperbacks for \$1 and hardcovers for \$2. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Library and all proceeds help support library programs.

#### Museum Passes



▲ Register now for LEGO Building on Friday, Jan. 3, at 3:45 p.m.! Students in grades K-5 are welcome to build with LEGOs at the same time as other LEGO fans and display what they make in the library! (Courtesy photo)

The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting [wilm.library.org/services/mp](http://wilm.library.org/services/mp)

#### WML In-Person Programming

Registration is required for most in-person programs. Please check our website on the day of the program to confirm location. Masks are no longer

required for vaccinated patrons while visiting the library.

#### WML Virtual Programming

The library continues to

offer a variety of virtual events. Please note that registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Go to [wilm.library.org](http://wilm.library.org) to register or call 978-658-2967.

#### Display Your Artwork at the Library!

Call for artwork! Did you know the Wilmington Memorial Library allows professional artists to exhibit their work in the

library's Stewart Room? Interested artists can apply to exhibit their work by visiting <https://bit.ly/wmlart>.

## Middle school principal search to begin in new year

By LIZZY HILL  
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The School Committee meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 18 brought a performance from the WHS orchestra, student representative presentations, and the search for a new middle school principal.

The WHS orchestra performed the National Anthem to begin the meeting.

Wilmington Middle School student representatives Emily Falk and Olivia Howie shared many of the ongoing school activities recently including the latest edition of Paw Print Magazine, band and chorus winter concerts, the Math Team meet, Student Council decorating bulletin

boards, Advisory winter door decorating, and Art Club creating Christmas ornaments.

They also mentioned the popularity of after school sports playing ultimate football and basketball, Project 351's food pantry drive bringing in 1,423 items, Drama Club putting on Descendants: the Musical, Robotics Team preparing for their Jan. 25 competition, Best Buddies attending the Festival of Trees, and World Culture Club learning about Hispanic and Italian heritage.

The committee approved a Wilmington Education Foundation STEM Fair grant in the amount of \$3,000 and their edited nondiscrimination and harassment policy

brought for second reading that night. As part of the policy review, they proposed a number of policies to be removed and voted accordingly.

After an earlier executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining relative to the nurse substitute rate adjustment, a proposal was brought during the open meeting for the committee's consideration.

Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand explained that administration tracks compensation levels across the board including for substitutes. He shared that they renegotiated because they realized the district was falling behind their counterpart districts in terms of the rate for substitute nurs

es, which he said adversely impacted their ability to attract substitute nurses. The recommendation was to change the rate from \$165 to \$200 per day.

The committee voted to approve the rate change.

Brand provided an update for the committee in the progress made toward the middle school principal search.

Regarding the principal search, Brand mainly stated that it was underway since the resignation of Dr. Jeanette Quirk. He mentioned that Brian Caira was currently serving as the interim principal in the meantime. He assured the committee that the district was committed

SEARCH | PAGE A8W

## News and notes from WCTV

Hello friends and neighbors! Here's what's going on at WCTV!

### NEW PROGRAMMING JUST FOR YOU!

#### Library Craft Night: Paper Trees

Recently, the Wilmington Library hosted an event where families and community members stopped by to make festive paper trees out of recycled materials! Take a look at this short segment just in time for the holidays!

2024 Service Learning:  
Paws for a Cause

WCTV sat down with students: Andrew Laqudaira, Ian Pedraza and Shane Tesone, who shared their WHS Service Learning project "Paws for a Cause" where they donate food to the animal food pantry.

Listen in and hear about how they support this worthy cause as part of their community service to Wilmington's furry friends.

\*These programs can be viewed on WCTV channels or on WCTV's YouTube channel.

nel: WCTV Wilmington.  
Meetings covered  
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Access Channel: Verizon 38, Comcast 6.

To watch programs On-Demand or for more information check us out at [WCTV.org](http://WCTV.org).

WCTV is located at 10 Waltham Street, Wilmington

Office hours by appointment: (978) 657-4066.

Questions about WCTV?

Contact: [info@wctv.org](mailto:info@wctv.org)

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## OPTIONS FOR TAXPAYERS WITH A TAX BILL PART II

**Offers in compromise**

An offer in compromise lets taxpayers settle their tax debt for less than the full amount they owe. It may be an option if they can't pay their full tax liability or doing so creates a financial hardship. The IRS considers a taxpayer's unique set of facts and circumstances when deciding whether to accept an offer.

Taxpayers can see if they're eligible and prepare a preliminary proposal with the Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier Tool.

**The IRS offers penalty relief to eligible taxpayers**

Taxpayers may qualify for penalty relief if they tried to comply with tax laws but were unable due to circumstances beyond their control.

**Here's what taxpayers should know about possible penalties and interest**

Taxpayers who owe tax and don't file on time, may be charged a failure-to-file penalty. This penalty is usually five percent of the tax owed for each month or part of a month that the tax return is late, up to 25 percent. The failure-to-pay penalty applies if a taxpayer doesn't pay the taxes they report on their tax return by the due date.

Interest is based on the amount of tax owed and for each day it's not paid in full. The interest is compounded daily, so it is assessed on the previous day's balance plus the interest. Interest rates are determined every three months and can vary based on type of tax; for example, individual or business tax liabilities.

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# Lifestyle

## VISIT THE MUSEUM OF BROADWAY IN NYC THIS WINTER

By HEATHER BURNS  
News Correspondent

For those looking for a little road trip adventure during the holiday week, you may want to consider a short day or overnight trip to New York City.

Typically, folks flock to

the Big Apple in December to experience Christmastime in the city firsthand, and many more will pack Time Square on Dec. 31 in anticipation of ringing in the New Year.

But during that lull in holiday activity from Dec. 26 to Dec. 30, you may want

to consider a trip to New York City to bask in the culture of legendary Broadway.

Broadway is the second largest reason tourists visit New York City (with the first reason being shopping).

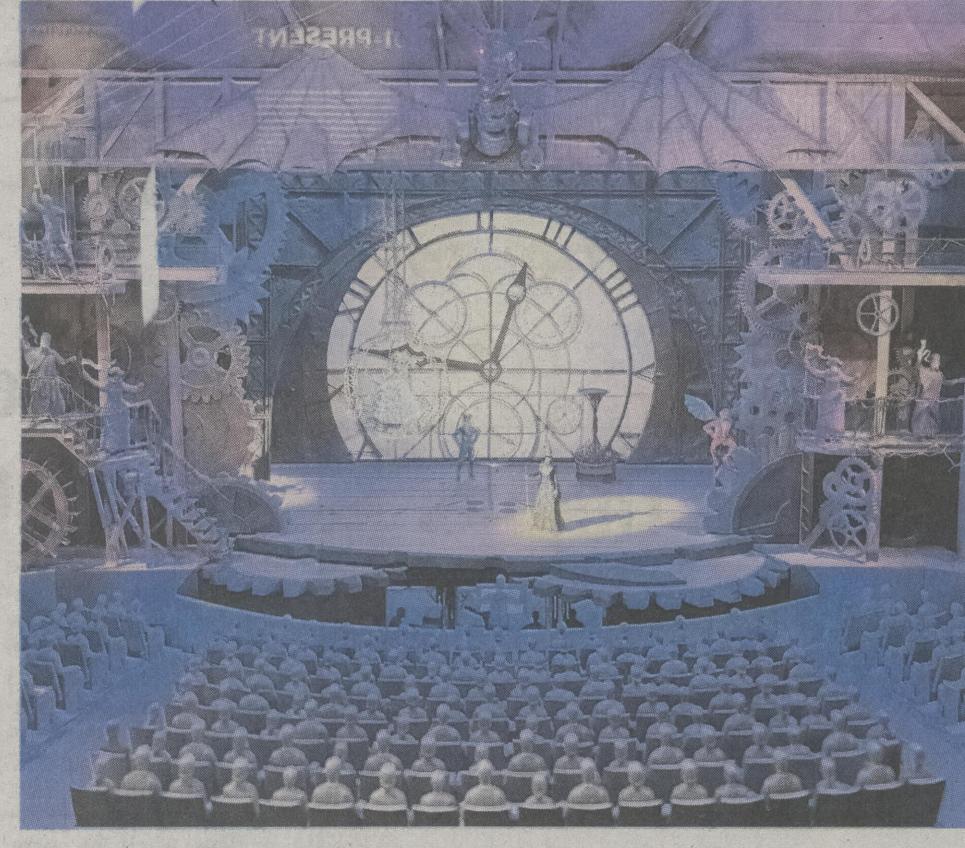
Broadway is not only an internationally known brand, but it is the cornerstone of American culture and theater.

If the holiday season has stretched your budget to the limit and Broadway show tickets are a bit out of reach, you can still experience the magic of Broadway with a visit to The Museum of Broadway.

Located in the heart of Time Square at 145 West 45th St., this museum was created by renowned artists, designers and historians, offering a visually stimulating experience for visitors to better understand Broadway and the theater lifestyle.

Upon arrival, museum guests will be transported back in time as they walk through Broadway's colorful history that dates back to 1732.

This historic timeline is packed with information, original artifacts, and elaborate displays about different shows, actors, writers and producers that



▲ The Museum of Broadway can transport visitors to front row seats of iconic shows with realistic set replicas and dioramas of such shows as West Side Story, Wicked, and The Wiz.

have contributed to the success of Broadway.

Immerse yourself in Broadway life and watch the incredible changes in productions throughout the years.

From costume styles of long-running shows like Phantom of the Opera and Cats, to set designs from West Side Story and Wicked, visitors can experience the changes in styles as they have evolved throughout the years and learn some well-kept secrets of the industry.

Many exhibits are dedicated to the groundbreaking moments in Broadway history.

Besides the permanent museum collection, the museum also has rotating exhibits and celebrations for Broadway milestones.

Tours are self-guided, however, there are plenty of museum ambassadors located throughout the museum to answer any questions.

Museum officials suggest allowing 90 minutes for your visit, but realistically,

it is wise to plan to be at the museum for three to four hours to absorb the full museum experience.

Tickets to The Museum of Broadway are available online at [www.themuseumofbroadway.com](http://www.themuseumofbroadway.com).

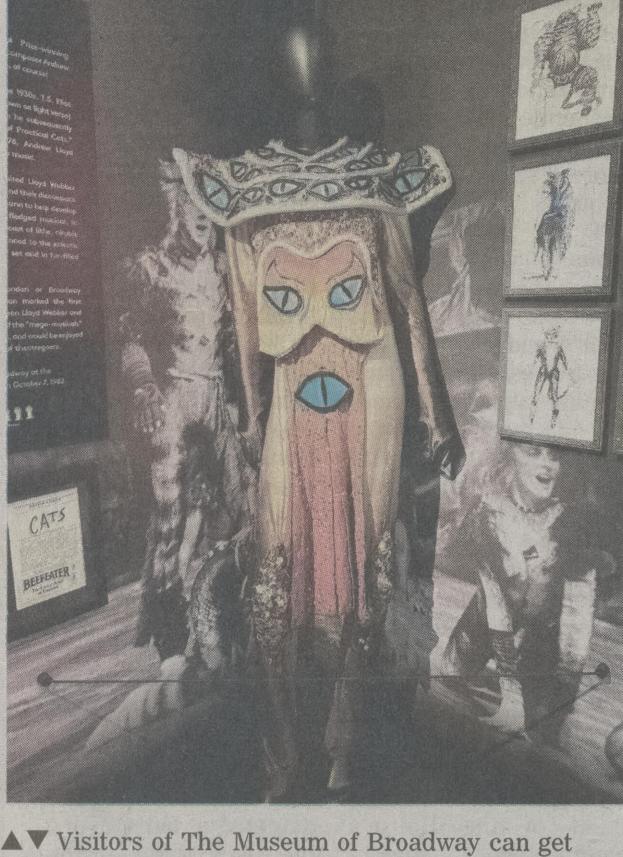
Keep in mind New York is just a short 35 minute plane ride, or four to five hours by car, making this day trip getaway easier than you think.

To avoid the stress of driving in traffic, consider traveling on a comfy, coach-style bus. It is more economical than flying, and relieves the stress of

driving and parking your own car in the city.

Several bus lines in the area make multiple, daily trips to and from New York City, including C & J Bus Line out of Seabrook, NH or Peter Pan Bus Line from Boston's South Station, and offer comfortable, stress-free rides that arrive and depart at Port Authority Bus Terminal in NYC, which is an easy walk to The Museum of Broadway.

For more information on bus schedules and ticket cost, visit [www.ridecj.com](http://www.ridecj.com) or [www.peterpanbus.com](http://www.peterpanbus.com).



▼ Visitors of The Museum of Broadway can get close up views of original costumes from such shows as Cats and Phantom of the Opera.

(Heather Burns photos)



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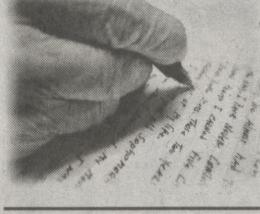
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## OPINION



## Letter to the editor

## Santa thanks children of Wilmington for visit

To the editor:

I wanted to let your readers know that for the 52nd year, I was invited by the Recreation Department to spend an evening with the children of Wilmington.

Brett, Marilyn, and Bree had an area in Town Hall decorated and set aside for me, and Tommy was there to welcome the children as they arrived for our visit. I look forward to these special moments with the children, receiving their lists and seeing just how much they have changed since last year!

I would like to thank Lia, Avery, Brighton, Frankie, Joseph, Own, Nora, Jaxon, Bailey, Margaret, James, Nicholas, Keira, Aidan, Julianna, Archer, Penelope, Rory, Luke, Olivia, Bella, Penny, Delylah, Miya, Raphy, Xavier, Teddy, Juliet, Eliza, Declan,

Jack, Audrey, Aribella, Jaxon, Brody, Aria, Gianna, Mason, Madelyn, Molly, Alya, Nolan, Rylie, Kendyl, Daylen, Emery, Lucas, Morgan, Evelyn, Mason, Svannah, Laiklyn, Kashton, Jia, Jayan, Ruby, Raelyn, Kierstin, Oliver, Teddy, Brady, Lily, Andres, Jithin, Shreya, Milo, Avery, Sophie, Lyra, Leo, Linnea, and Eamon for setting aside time to visit with me.

I will take back fond memories of each of you and will share your good wishes with Mrs. Claus and everyone back at the North Pole.

I will be back in Wilmington very soon! I look forward to visiting with you again next year.

Merry Christmas to all!  
Santa Claus

## Upcoming local events

December 28 — Celebrate Tewksbury's 290th birthday with a cupcake. Tewksbury Public Library Friends honor cart area 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Tewksbury was officially incorporated on Dec. 23, 1734 from Billerica. The library is giving out one cupcake to every visitor, while supplies last.

Until New Year's Day, Tewksbury Open Space Winter Tree Walk — visit Tewksbury Open Space lands at Pinnacle, Rogers, and Chandler Well Fields to discover decorations by local nonprofits. Trail maps at [tewksbury-ma.gov/open-space-and-recreation-plan](http://tewksbury-ma.gov/open-space-and-recreation-plan).

January 3, Officer Sean Collier Remembrance Day. The community is welcomed to pay tribute to Officer Collier at 2:30 p.m. A commemorative ceremony will take place at the Sean Collier Memorial Tree in Rotary Park, located directly across from the Public Safety Building, Wilmington.

January 11 — 2nd annual Project Period Care Drive to collect period care products for Middlesex Community College and the UMass Lowell Strive Pantry. 10 a.m. to noon. Drop-off location is MCC, 33 Kearney Square. The

drive is collecting pads and tampons. For more information, contact Rep. Vanna Howard's office at 617-722-2060, ext. 7 or email [vanna.howard@mahouse.gov](mailto:vanna.howard@mahouse.gov).

January 18 — Tewksbury Public Library, Free professional headshot 10 minute session. Register at <https://shorturl.at/pD88G>

January 18 — Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library book donation drive. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 300 Chandler St., Tewksbury

January 23 — Tewksbury Community Blood Drive at the Tewksbury Elks Lodge from 2:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Lodge is located at 777 South St., Tewksbury. Come out, donate blood, and be a hero! Schedule your appointment today at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>!

February 7, Tewksbury Lions Music Bingo, 7 - 11 p.m., Tewksbury Wilmington Lodge of Elks, Adult-only event, Full table \$250 for 10 people. Bring snacks for the table to enjoy during the event. Cash bar available. \*No Beverages of any kind to be brought in to Event. Full table purchases only. Raffles, prizes.

February 15, Wilmington

## Healey-Driscoll Administration awards \$14M to increase graduation rates at state universities

BOSTON — The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that it is awarding \$14 million from the fiscal year 2025 budget to support student success programming at Massachusetts' nine state universities. These funds support services such as peer mentors, academic skills workshops, and academic, career and scholarship advising aimed at increasing graduation rates, particularly among historically underserved students.

Massachusetts is extending SUCCESS funding to state universities for the first time, which has been available to community colleges in recent years. This type of funding contributed to a 10-percentage point increase in community college student retention from fall 2022 to fall 2023.

"To best support our students, we know that we need to help them get both to and through college," said Governor Maura Healey. "We've made progress in making it more affordable for students to enroll in college, and this program will now lift barriers that arise on the way to graduation, especially for first-generation college students who cannot draw on a parent's experience to navigate earning a degree."

"An educated workforce benefits all of Massachusetts, but those benefits are only realized if students can succeed in college and graduate ready to launch their careers," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "The SUCCESS program is a crucial tool for supporting students and closing equity gaps in college graduation rates."

The State University SUCCESS program will allow campuses to create new services to support vulnerable or historically underserved student populations, including students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, and students who are low-income or first-generation to college. This funding builds on a key focus area of the administration's recent report on Advancing Representation in Higher Education: to increase persistence and completion for historically underserved and underrepresented students.

According to the De-

partment of Higher Education's most recent data, more than 30 percent of state university students do not earn a degree within six years of enrolling. Among Black and Latino students, more than 40 percent of students do not graduate within six years of enrolling at a Massachusetts state university.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration is working to be number one in education for all students, and that means providing campuses with the supports they need to promote student well-being and success," said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler.

"I want to thank the Legislature for their partnership in supporting wraparound services for students, continuing to make Massachusetts the best place to live and go to school."

"To close equity gaps in higher education, we must support the whole student," said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. "We cannot wait to lift barriers that keep many students from realizing the socio-economic upward mobility that comes from earning a college degree. I'm grateful to Governor Healey and the legislature for supporting crucial wrap-around services that have been shown to have a positive impact on student persistence."

In addition to the \$14 million for the State University SUCCESS program, the state fiscal year 2025 budget also invested \$14.7 million for community colleges, making a total \$28.7 million investment in SUCCESS programming. Further, the budget included a new Higher Education Persistence Fund at \$2.5 million to help address students' basic needs, such as food security, housing, child care, and transportation.

Under the Healey-Driscoll Administration, state financial aid has increased by more than \$200 million in the past two years. This has also enabled the expansion of MASSGrant Plus, which gives free tuition and fees to Pell Grant eligible students at all public colleges and universities, including the nine state universities and the University of Massachusetts. MASSGrant Plus also lowers costs for middle-income stu-

dents. Financial aid and SUCCESS and related student support programs help ensure that students can not only access college but are also set up to succeed when they arrive.

"Expanding the SUCCESS program to our state university system will help our students be able to thrive," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland).

"At our community colleges, this program has boosted completion rates for the students who face the greatest challenges. I am excited to see these academic and peer supports extend to even more Massachusetts students."

"I am proud of the House's work championing the expansion of SUCCESS funding in this year's budget, as it will ensure essential wrap-around support services for our most vulnerable state university students," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "By investing in key supports like enhanced mentoring and personalized advising, we are breaking down barriers to academic success and ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. This program is a testament to the House's commitment to student achievement and equity in higher education. Thanks to our partners in the Healey-Driscoll Administration, I look forward to the positive impact this program will have on students in the Commonwealth."

"I am thrilled to see the aptly named SUCCESS program expand to state universities."

"This program helps our most vulnerable students persist and earn a college degree," said Senator Jo Comerford, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education (D-Northampton). "I am grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature and the Healey-Driscoll Administration for supporting the funding that made this expansion possible, as well as to the intrepid team at DHE for their implementation work."

"Massachusetts has made historic investments in higher education affordability and access. Today's announcement builds on that progress and helps to ensure that students — particularly those

from underrepresented communities — have the tools and support they need to succeed," said Representative Dave Rogers, House Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education (D-Cambridge). "I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll administration for their continued support of our schools and students."

"The expansion of SUCCESS funds will allow our state universities to grow programming to reach even more students looking to advance their education, said Dr. Linda Thompson, Chair of the Massachusetts State Universities Council of Presidents, and President of Westfield State University.

"We are confident the funding initiatives brought by the Healey-Driscoll Administration will reach those individuals who want to stay in Massachusetts, build businesses, support our economy, and strengthen their families. At Westfield State University, expansion of SUCCESS will benefit our LEAD Scholars program, or the Leadership, Excellence, Achievement and Diversity program which has been active on campus for almost 60 years. LEAD emphasizes our university's dedication to cultivating excellence in all students, acknowledging their achievements, and celebrating the diversity that enriches our campus community. LEAD Scholars enables our students to take the lead in the classroom, within our campus, their own communities, and beyond."

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"I am proud of the House's work championing the expansion of SUCCESS funding in this year's budget, as it will ensure essential wrap-around support services for our most vulnerable state university students," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "By investing in key supports like enhanced mentoring and personalized advising, we are breaking down barriers to academic success and ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. This program is a testament to the House's commitment to student achievement and equity in higher education. Thanks to our partners in the Healey-Driscoll Administration, I look forward to the positive impact this program will have on students in the Commonwealth."

"I am thrilled to see the aptly named SUCCESS program expand to state universities."

"This program helps our most vulnerable students persist and earn a college degree," said Senator Jo Comerford, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education (D-Northampton). "I am grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature and the Healey-Driscoll Administration for supporting the funding that made this expansion possible, as well as to the intrepid team at DHE for their implementation work."

"Massachusetts has made historic investments in higher education affordability and access. Today's announcement builds on that progress and helps to ensure that students — particularly those

from underrepresented communities — have the tools and support they need to succeed," said Representative Dave Rogers, House Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education (D-Cambridge). "I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll administration for their continued support of our schools and students."

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## Lifestyle

# Visit the Queen City of Charlotte, North Carolina

By PAIGE IMPINK  
News Correspondent

Charlotte, North Carolina is a booming city full of sophistication and southern charm. According to the Charlotte Business Alliance, the city is adding 117 new residents every day. New Englanders are increasingly discovering this city whether for vacation, relocation, or retirement.

Known affectionately as the Queen City, Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are named for Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the wife of King George III at the time of the city's founding in 1768.

On a recent visit, we had lunch at Optimist Hall, a former textile factory that's been transformed into a premier foodie destination. Home to restaurants, shops, and craft beverage stands, the airy renovation retains all of the industrial feel of the mill with chic family spaces and group seating areas that create a place to relax and enjoy your food, beverages, and friends, indoors or out.

Our group enjoyed burgers, Ethiopian food, empanadas, Reubens, and fried chicken sandwiches —

something for everyone. Don't forget the sweet tea!

From downtown, it was an easy drive to Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in Belmont. We strolled the nearly 400 acres of paths, meadows, and themed gardens, and took in the conservatory with orchids and tropical plants.

The garden was created in 1991 by a former textile executive and has become a go-to for events and celebrations, especially in the picturesque visitor center pavilion. Six miles of trails reach out to Lake Wylie and provide an opportunity to stretch your legs.

Couples were enjoying picnics, and children were enjoying the larger-than-life garden toys including a whirling bird cage. For the holidays, magical light displays and events with Santa fill the schedule. Despite its southern latitude, it can still be chilly enough outside for cocoa in winter.

Charlotte also boasts several art museums. We visited The Mint Museum in uptown, named because its original location is housed in the former U.S. Mint branch in Charlotte. Its impressive American

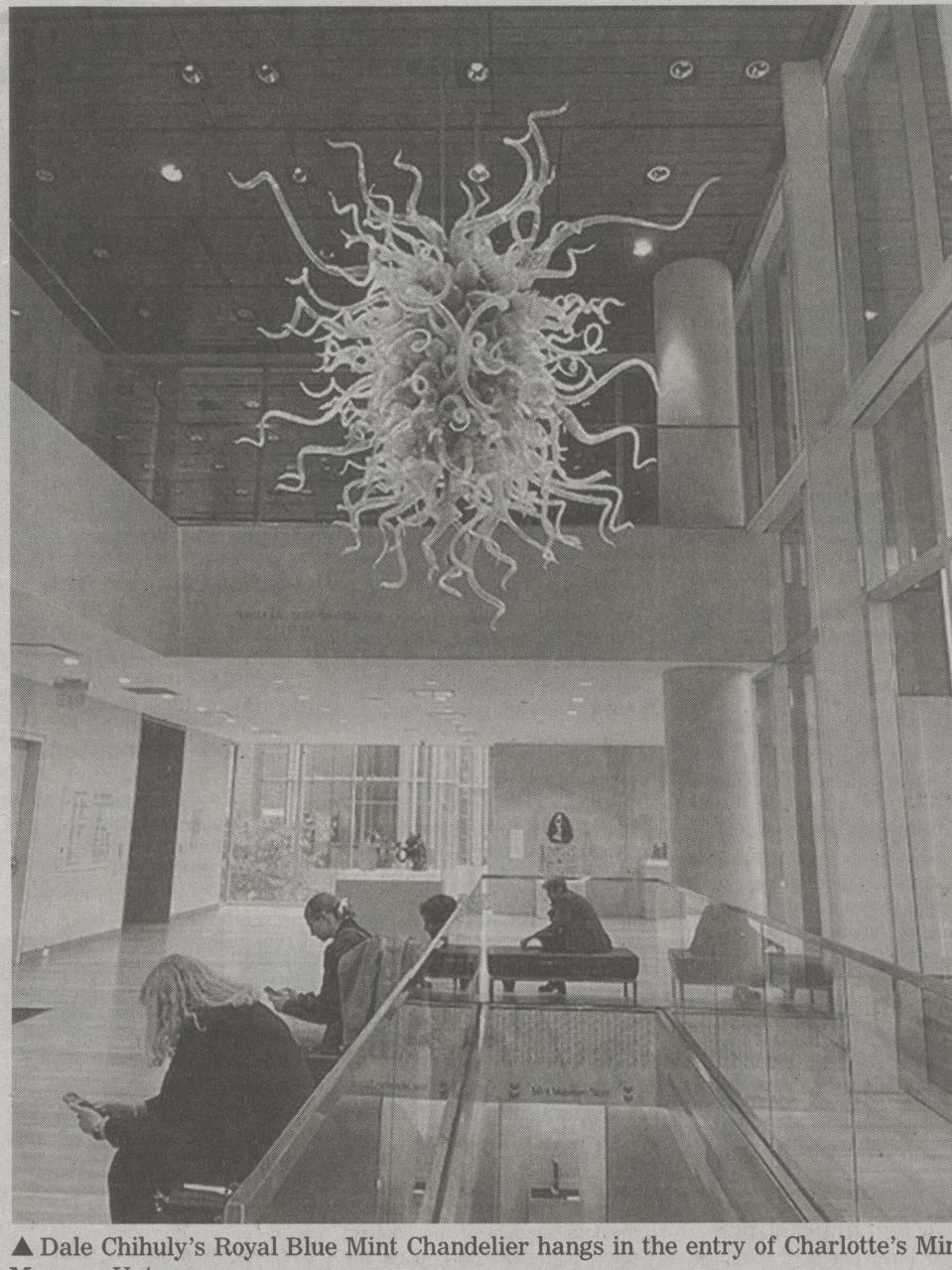
art collection is both eclectic and cohesive. The art of the South was on display when we visited, showcasing works from 1915-1955.

The galleries highlight Craft and Design and American Modern Contemporary Art. Spread over several floors, the museum is a good mix of medium and artists whose names are new right alongside familiar old masters.

Both The Mint Uptown and Daniel Stowe are closed Mondays so check online before you visit.

If one has time, we highly recommend the US National Whitewater Center. This facility has the largest manmade whitewater river in the country. Part of a larger recreation complex, there are ropes courses, mountain bike trails, rock climbing and rappelling. Activities vary by season but it is a real family-focused destination with something going on all the time.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame is a good spot for racing enthusiasts, and there is a Discovery Center for younger children. Don't forget the Sullenberger Aviation Museum at Charlotte Douglas International Air-



▲ Dale Chihuly's Royal Blue Mint Chandelier hangs in the entry of Charlotte's Mint Museum-Uptown.

port, named for Miracle on the Hudson pilot Sully Sullenberger. It's a Smithsonian Affiliate museum and

well worth a stop.

So if your travels take you to Charlotte, be sure to make time to soak in

the royal variety of cultural and natural offerings of the Queen City.

## Local students named to honor roll at Malden Catholic

MALDEN — Malden Catholic students have successfully completed the first marking period of the 2024-2025 school year. A total of 624 students from 40 cities and towns have earned recognition on the honor roll for their outstanding academic achievements.

Malden Catholic honors academic excellence with three distinct categories:

President's List: Grades of 90-100 in all classes

First Honors: Grades

of 85-89 in all classes  
Second Honors: Grades of 80-84 in all classes

The honor roll is organized by city, student name, year of graduation, and honor level.

### TEWKSBURY PRESIDENT'S LIST

• Zachary Balandan '25

• Michael Casey '25

• Alyson Desaulniers '27

### WILMINGTON PRESIDENT'S LIST

• Gabriella Carriglio '27

• Amelia Foti '25

• Megan Mullarky '25

• Alyvia New '27  
• Matthew Newhouse '25  
• Delaney Perreault '25

### FIRST HONORS

• Adrian Babu '26

• Roman DiZoglio '26

• Shannon Hounsell '27

• Harleinedie Jolimer '28

• Cole Tucker '26

### SECOND HONORS

• Mark Cataldo Jr '28

• Kevin Cullity '28

• Casey Kelley '26

• Thomas Pereira '26



▲ Charlotte's Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is a beautiful combination of hard-scape and gardens in any season.  
(Paige Impink photos)

## DA Ryan hosts workplace violence roundtable discussion

BOSTON — Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan convened a Workplace Violence Roundtable last week at Emmanuel College featuring experts across different fields for over 80 leaders of Fortune 500 companies, hospitals, schools and law enforcement. The roundtable emphasized the importance of implementing and training employees on policies and protocols to identify threats and establish safe work environments.

The event featured remarks from United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Joshua Levy, Chief Security Officer Fidelity Investments Lisa Quinn, President of Emmanuel College Beth Ross, Ed.D., Founder of The Edward Davis Company and Former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis, Chief, Special Investigations Unit, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan's Office Graham Van Epps, Vice President of Security at RWE Clean Energy Keith Jones and Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the Federal Bureau of Investigations Kimberly Milka.

"In the wake of the mur-

der of United Health-

care CEO Brian Thompson,

safety concerns in

and around the work-

place are at an all-time

high. Middlesex County

is home to some of the

largest employers in the

state and we are lucky

to have partnerships in

place that allow us to

have these conversa-

tions that provide the

tools to address the sa-

feity needs of those living

and working here," said

District Attorney Ryan.

"Incidents of threats and

acts of violence have

lasting trauma on those

both directly and indi-

rectly impacted. Under-

standing best practices

for intervention, preven-

tion and response to po-

tential risks is essential

to ensure that the infra-

structure is in place to

address these incidents."

Attendees at the round-

table were encouraged to

foster a workplace cul-

ture where employees

are empowered to speak

up through established

reporting venues if they

hear or see something

unsettling and where

employees are confident

that employers will take

reports of actual or po-

tential workplace vio-

lence seriously, investi-

gate promptly and take

appropriate action to

address workplace vio-

lence situations.

Attendees were urged

to establish a reporting

avenue for the following:

• Increasing performance concerns

• Veiled or direct threats

• Hypersensitivity to criticism

• Obsession with any one or anything

• Change in baseline habits

• Financial problems

• Noticeable changes in "normal" behavior

• Homicidal/suicidal comments or threats

• Outbursts of anger

• Change in personal hygiene

Employers were also

encouraged to implement the following best practices:

• Train responders in

relevant laws (e.g. harass-

ment, stalking, and The Ameri-

cans with Disabilities Act).

• Consider placing an

actual or suspected wrongdoer on paid ad-

ministrative leave until

the matter is investigat-

ed and resolved. Con-

sider extending full pay

and benefits for termi-

nated wrongdoers if they

pose a risk of future vio-

lence.

• Have an established

plan for communicating

press releases; consider

engaging a crisis man-

agement professional.



Girl Scout Troop selling cookies

Girl Scouts from Troop 64173, from left, Maddie Saro, Eleanor Heger, Alexis Conners, and Alexis Cohen could be found outside of McKinnons on a chilly Saturday selling the famous cookies as a fundraiser.

(Joe Brown Photo)

### ALL INCLUSIVE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Large second-floor office space in the heart of Wilmington with easy access to The Commuter Rail and minutes from all major highways. This space would be ideal for a lawyer or a tax professional.



VISIT NORTHEASTERNDEVELOPMENT.COM/RENTALS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Entire Second Floor
- 2,500 S.F.
- 5 Private Offices
- Large Private Conference Room
- Two Private Bathrooms
- First Floor Shared Conference Room
- Back Stairwell for Private Access
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- Heat and Electricity Included
- Landscaping and Snow Removal Included
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### FREE ESTIMATES

WILMINGTON 978-657-5410

WOBURN 781-933-1234

835 Woburn Street, Wilmington

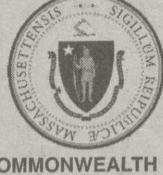
Over 25 years in business

## LEGAL NOTICES

## • LEGAL NOTICES •

## LEGAL NOTICES

## LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

## CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P6606EA

Estate of:  
Paula L. Turco  
Date of Death: 11/20/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joseph A. Turco, Jr. of Burlington MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Joseph A. Turco, Jr. of Burlington MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/16/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS**, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 19, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate  
241341 12/26/24

## LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Division  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

## INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI24P6330EA

Estate of:  
Carol A Skilling  
Also Known As:  
Carol Ann Skilling,  
Carol A (Pihl) Skilling  
Date of Death:  
November 05, 2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Randal B Skilling of Orlando FL a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Randal B Skilling of Orlando FL has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

241339 12/26/24

## LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON  
MASSACHUSETTS

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for furnishing the following item: REDEVELOPMENT, SURGING AND CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF THREE (3) WELLS AT SALEM ST WELLFIELD will be received at the Office of the Town Manager, Wilmington Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Wilmington website:  
<https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/purchasing-department>

Bids will be opened in the Office of the Town Manager on January 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a BID BOND, CASH, or CERTIFIED CHECK issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price.

A performance bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, as well as a labor and materials bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total contract price, if the contract is more than \$25,000.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to G.L. c.30, §39M.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive.

Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Wilmington  
R. Eric Slagle  
Town Manager  
241330 12/26/24

## LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 7:15 p.m. in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Joseph Langone Trustee, 96 Middlesex Avenue Realty Trust, 20 Middlesex Avenue, Wilmington, MA 01887, owner & applicant. This filing is to raze a garage, remove trees, construct a single-family dwelling, deck, grading, and associated utilities. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Riverfront Area as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 96 Middlesex Avenue, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on the Assessor's Map 52 Parcel 52. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair  
Conservation Commission  
241339 12/26/24

## LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

## CITATION GIVING NOTICE

OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN  
FOR INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. MI24P6326GD

In the matter of:  
William Menard  
Of:Tewksbury, MA  
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that William Menard is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 1/2/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

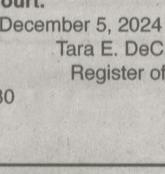
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

**WITNESS**, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 5, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate  
241330 12/26/24

## LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY  
TREE WARDEN

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Tewksbury Tree Warden will hold a Public Hearing regarding the removal of public shade trees on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Tewksbury DPW, 999 Whipple Road, Tewksbury, MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated or submit a written objection with your name and address prior to the date and time listed.

The proposed removal is a resident request to remove a tree.

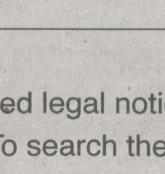
The location of the town tree affected is (1) multi-stemmed Elm at 390 Pleasant Street.

Objections can be made in writing at the time of the hearing or sent to the attention of the Tree Warden at the Tewksbury Department of Public Works, 999 Whipple Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876 prior to the hearing.

Kevin Hardiman, P.E.  
Director of Public Works  
Tree Warden

241321 12/26/24, 1/2/25

## LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

## CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN  
FOR INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. MI24P6329EA

In the matter of:  
Robert Stanley Noel  
Also known as:  
Robert S. Noel

Date of Death: 11/15/2023

## LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

## CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P6329EA

In the matter of:  
Robert Stanley Noel  
Also known as:  
Robert S. Noel

Date of Death: 11/15/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nicholas J. Noel of Tewksbury MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Nicholas J. Noel of Tewksbury MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/16/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS**, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 17, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate  
241327 12/26/24

## REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY (RDA)

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on January 8, 2025, at 6:30 P.M., located at Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, for a RDA application filed by Frances Muise for cut down two trees within 100' of a BVW.

The property subject to this application is located at 196 MAPLE ST TEWKSBURY, MA, ASSESSOR'S MAP 88-29.

The application may be examined on the Conservation Commission webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at [www.tekwksbury-ma.gov](http://www.tekwksbury-ma.gov). Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on [www.masspublicnotices.org](http://www.masspublicnotices.org).

Daniel Ronan  
Chair  
241325 12/26/24

## REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY (RDA)

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on January 8, 2025, at 6:30 P.M., located at Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, for a RDA application filed by Michael McNamee for replace water connection within 100' of a river.

The property subject to this application is located at 125 HEATH ST TEWKSBURY, MA, ASSESSOR'S MAP 69-107.

The application may be examined on the Conservation Commission webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at [www.tekwksbury-ma.gov](http://www.tekwksbury-ma.gov). Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on [www.masspublicnotices.org](http://www.masspublicnotices.org).

## Wilmington's Randell, Taylor graduate from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

STOW — State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership today announced the graduation of 33 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

They include Wilmington firefighters Eric Randell and William Taylor.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Dennis A. Ball. "Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid."

The graduating firefighters of Class #326 represent the fire departments of Acton, Amesbury, Andover, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Chelmsford, Dudley, Gardner, Hingham, Lexington, Littleton, Nantucket, Plainville, Weston, Wilmington, and Winches-

ter. The Richard N. Bangs Outstanding Student Award, which is presented to one recruit in each graduating career recruit training class, was presented to Firefighter Eric Randell of



▲ Firefighter graduates Taylor, left, and Randell

the Wilmington Fire Department. The award is named for the longtime chair of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and reflects the recruit's academic and practical skills, testing, and evaluations over the course of the 10-week program.

**Basic Firefighter Skills**  
Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety,

search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire

Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

### Today's Firefighters

#### Do Much More than Fight Fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills. They may

be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridge-

water.

## Slight enrollment increase

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

costs for special education students, which he said reflected a significant spike — about \$350,000; out of district tuition costs; contractual obligations; expansion of services for more intensive special education students; and additional resources for English Language Learners.

Brand shared that enrollment projections are used to build the budget, as 80 percent of the budget supports the provision of fiscal resources to support staff. The current enrollment as of Oct. 1 showed 2,818 students. Overall, this year they had generally seen enrollment increase. They projected an increase of 33 students for next year.

The district was also seeing expanding student needs, especially in English Language Education. Brand said that the subset of students learning English in town is slowly growing.

"We have a legal obligation to provide appropriate services for those learning English," he continued.

They had a total of 167 students who spoke another language at home this current year, compared to 93 in 2020. Just some of the other languages spoken at homes of students in Wilmington include Arabic, French, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Portuguese, Thai, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

In this regard, they proposed an additional full-time teacher for translation services.

As for sub-separate special education programming, they saw students with more intensive special needs who they wanted to keep in-district because of fiscal and other benefits. The district had a total of nine types of programs in 30 classrooms, from Strides to Life Skills.

There were 30 teachers and 140 students currently enrolled.

For next year, they planned to add a third elementary Strides classroom at the Woburn Street School and an additional position for a special education program coach.

Other staffing changes proposed involved adding an additional business teacher at the high school, six educational assistants, and one and a half full-time special education teachers. Brand also highlighted some roles requested but not put into the budget including a STEM curriculum coordinator, humanities curriculum coordinator, building substitutes, and behavioral specialists.

The overall staffing cost increase proposed was 5.29 percent, representing over \$2 million; and a 5.4 percent increase for non-salary costs, representing over \$550,000. The total budget proposed amounted to \$52,074,44, which was a 5.32 percent increase from this year.

In addition to the total budget, the school district was requesting over \$631,000 in capital funds requests from the town.

Stephen Turner noted that enrollment was finally not only stabilizing but increasing, especially at the high school, which he said reflected really well on the school program and staff. He asked if circuit breaker would reimburse the town at all for out-of-district transportation costs. Director of Administration and Finance Paul Ruggiero answered that there was about a 40 percent reimbursement rate for circuit breaker for this item.

Turner also stated that making edits to this budget has an educational impact on students and takes away from what the town's educators think is appropriate.

Jay Samaha agreed that

the town should try to serve as many students in district as possible and pointed out benefits including education and community involvement. He added that while the consolidated pre-k-grade 5 school has a large upfront cost, it brings reduction in the budget, as a lot of their budget cost comes from the number of schools in operation.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi asked whether they have considered consolidating special education programs in certain buildings. Assistant Superintendent Christine Elliott did say that they closely monitor student needs and population, but otherwise haven't considered doing so.

Brand also mentioned that he could highlight out of district tuition costs in his presentation and that the district has space challenges in certain buildings for these programs.

David Ragsdale requested more detail on the proposed staffing changes, especially the positions proposed to be added.

Nicholas Golden asked particularly about the high school business teacher proposed. High School Principal Ryan Gendron replied that they had seen a high demand in the personal finance course and had some teachers currently teaching out of their department to meet those needs. He also shared that the high school has only 77 sections of courses with even a few open seats, and the other 111 sections are either full or beyond full since their schedule change allowing students more elective choices.

Next steps that Brand named included working with the town manager and leadership team to better understand what the town could support, making adjustments, and bringing the recommended budget for Jan. 22.

He commented that it was unfortunate to see this space being taken away.

"Something is lost," he said. "I want to have confidence that what we're gaining is worth it."

He went on to say that while they can have a policy limiting public access to school grounds, they couldn't completely secure these areas.

Brand agreed that they would align their expectations and account for those details including CARES.

Nicholas Golden also asked for the rule to include more details.

## Questions still remain

CLOSING FROM PAGE 1

officers are a shared resource across several elementary schools. He also said the police department always provides excellent backup coverage when a school resource officer is sick.

Turner also asked about the specific details of the policy for precision and practicality. He wondered if the school grounds would be closed to the public, for example, from opening bell to closing bell, or perhaps from the first bus drop-off to the last bus pickup, to illustrate that there may be gray area around what exactly is included within the "school day."

Brand agreed that they would align their expectations and account for those details including CARES.

Nicholas Golden also asked for the rule to include more details.

David Ragsdale said that he initially felt uncomfortable about the proposal, but he was open to acquiescing. He said that the schools are community partners, and their outdoor space provides somewhere for people to go when they need to get out of the house, including people who have young kids who may attend those schools in the future.

He commented that it was unfortunate to see this space being taken away.

"Something is lost," he said. "I want to have confidence that what we're gaining is worth it."

He went on to say that while they can have a policy limiting public access to school grounds, they couldn't completely secure these areas.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi shared a similar sentiment. He said that there was a balance to be

struck between the two sides. He didn't want to see the town moving toward putting fences around schools like he was in other areas.

Brand thanked the committee for their feedback.

Golden said he wanted to see the opinion of the police department, and Brand said he could ask them for a memo.

Turner appreciated the perspectives brought from the committee. He said that he heard that the teachers have to watch the recess space differently when there is another adult present in the place where their students are. He also proposed shortening the time in which the grounds are closed to the public, as they don't necessarily have recess at the beginning of the school day.

Jesse Fennelly suggested that more thorough planning would take place on the details.

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## Wilmington High School's December Students of the Month

Congratulations to the Wilmington High School December Students of the Month, who were nominated for exemplifying the Contributor mindset! They include Shannon Barrett, Danielle Chillemi, Gabriella Latson, Lillian French, Bella Goldstein, David Dynan, Adyson Balter, Alyssa Mahoney, Ashvin Baker, Michael London, Alliana Pilcher, and Marcela Martins.

(Courtesy photo)

## Principal search to be led by HR Director Stern-Armstrong

SEARCH FROM PAGE A2W

to launching the search and it was led by Human Resources Director Andrea Stern-Armstrong.

They were in the process of finding representatives from their various stakeholder groups to serve on the search committee. The deadline for representatives to express their

interest was Friday, Dec. 20. He provided the messaging sent to parent/guardians and staff to seek their interest. They would begin in the new year and follow the process as carried out in the search for other key leadership candidates.

Committee member Stephen Turner asked if they would be open to having

an 8th or 9th grader or two on the search committee. He suggested that they could bring unique dynamics and perspective to the search, having spent time in the middle school.

Brand said that this would be something to consider. He added that the process already involves assembling a stu-

dent group to meet with the candidates so that they can interface with the students.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi asked how many candidates had applied for the job so far. Brand referenced that there were nine applicants.

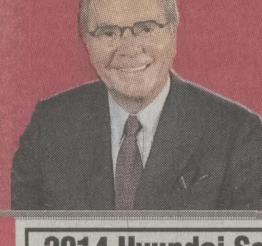
Mercaldi highlighted that a survey went out to the community, and he

was interested in the results and feedback expressed there. He urged that this position was critical and said it was a great time for the middle school to find a transformative leader.

Brand agreed with Mercaldi's sentiment, saying that they designed the process to position the town to best identify candi-

dates for this leadership position. He assured the committee that the information from the survey wouldn't be confidential but would be shared first with the search committee, and then they could prepare information for a wider audience.

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m.



# Herb Chambers



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## Movie Review:

Mufasa:  
The Lion King' Page B2



## Recipe:

Creamy Red Velvet  
Cookies Page B2

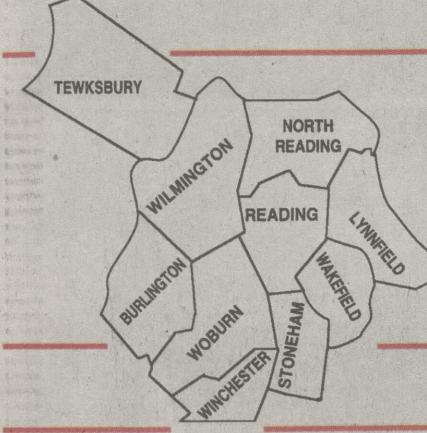


## Real Estate Page B3 Transfers



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024 B1

MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times - Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield, Tewksbury), Lynnfield Villager, No. Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent



Middlesex Canal Boat

# Middlesex East

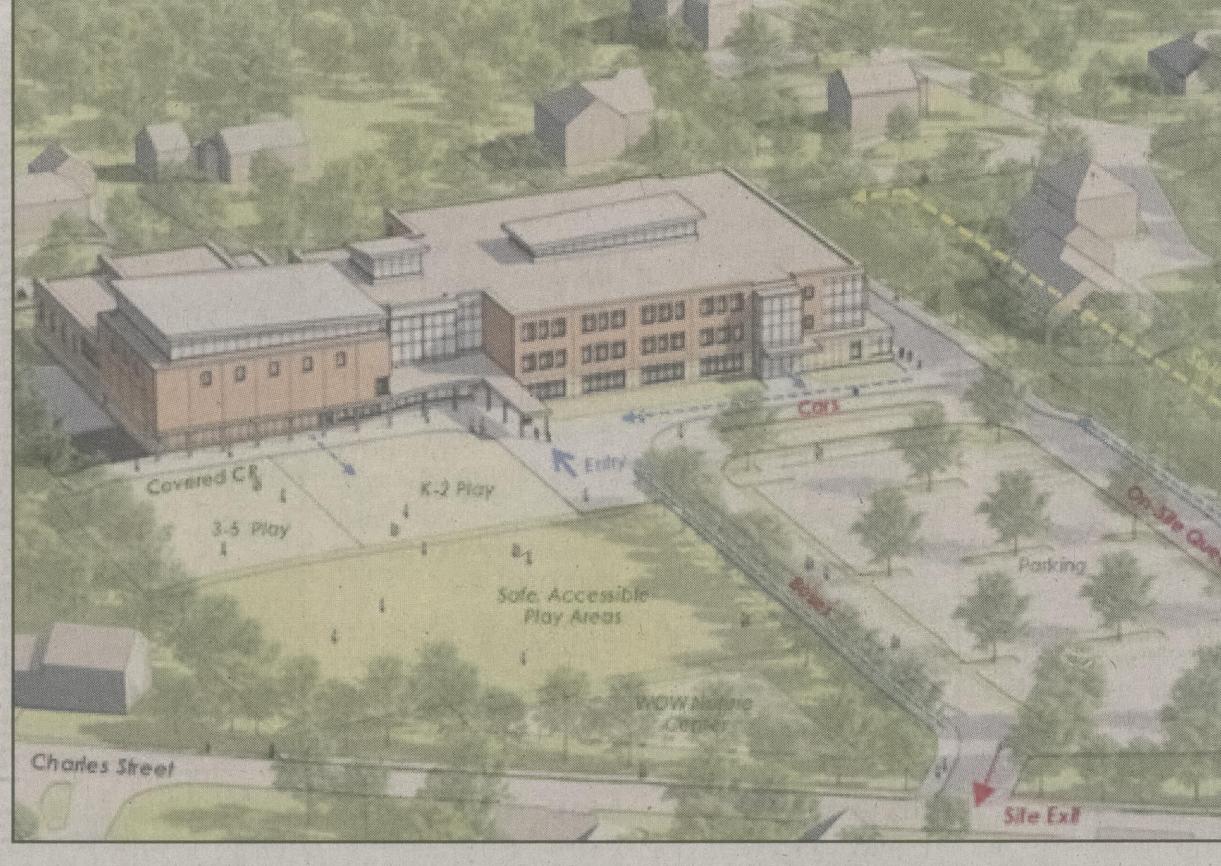
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## MSBA endorses Reading's design for new Killam School



By PATRICK BLAIS

Reading recently inched just a little bit closer to replacing its last antiquated educational building after the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) sanctioned a town proposal to replace the existing Killam Elementary School with a new three-story facility.

In an late October vote that pushed the potential funding partnership into the MSBA's "schematic design" phase, the state agency's board of directors unanimously agreed the 54-year-old elementary school should be replaced with a brand new facility capable of

housing up to 455 K-5 students. The state officials also agreed with the Killam School Building Committee's findings that the existing elementary school grounds, a 7.28-acre parcel that is sandwiched between Haverhill and Charles Street, is the most appropriate location to site that new facility.

Lastly, the MSBA's board of directors also consented to the community's decision to include a pre-kindergarten wing within that new complex that will be sized to accommodate the district's entire early childhood education program - or up to 180 students. Notably, the state, which is considering

whether to contribute up to \$40 million in state grants towards the undertaking, will not be contributing any extra money towards the pre-k program component.

Based upon preliminary cost projections, the town estimates it may cost up to \$136.5 million to construct the new facility on the Haverhill Street side of the 7.8-acre property. Should the MSBA ultimately decide to contribute state funding towards the building project, it would base its reimbursement rate based upon the estimated \$107 million K-5 program components.

"Thanks to our collaborative work with local offi-

cials, we are working to build a 21st century educational facility that will provide Reading students with a top-notch learning environment," said Mass. State Treasurer and MSBA Chair Deborah Goldberg in the wake of this fall's vote.

"The new J. Warren Killam Elementary School will mean a better learning and teaching location for students and teachers," MSBA Executive Director and Deputy CEO Mary Pichetti also stated in a prepared statement.

The Reading Public School system, which oper-

• SCHOOL TO B2

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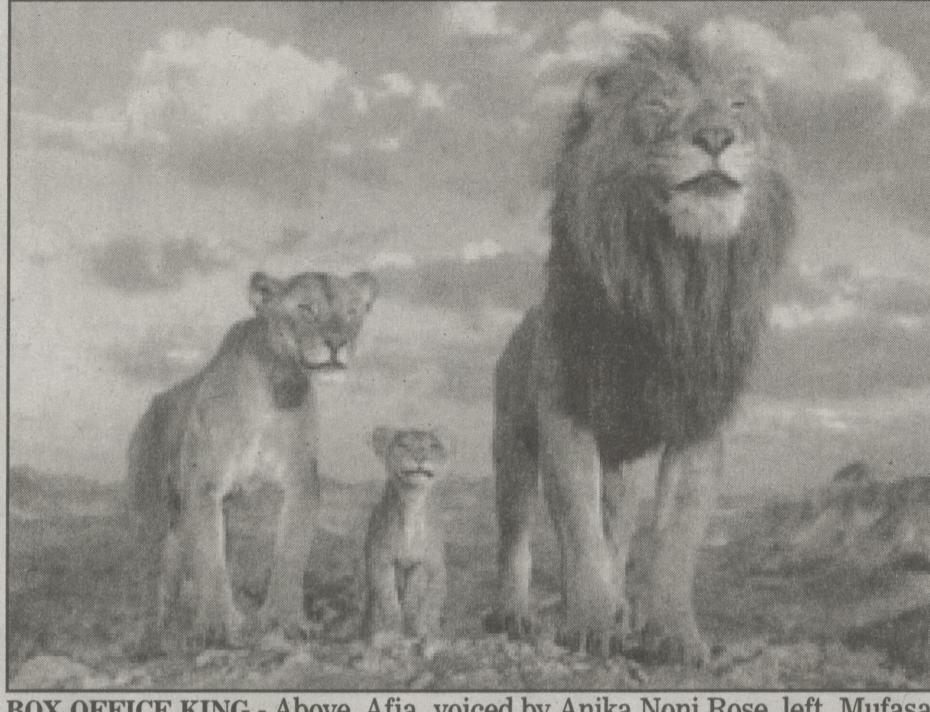
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## Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Fresh energy in the 'Lion King' prequel 'Mufasa'



**BOX OFFICE KING** - Above, Afia, voiced by Anika Noni Rose, left, Mufasa, voiced by Braelyn Rankins, center, and Masego, voiced by Keith David, in a scene from "Mufasa: The Lion King." (Disney via AP)

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

"Mufasa: The Lion King" has one very important thing going for it: an original story.

That may seem like faint praise or at least a very, very low bar in the grand scheme of things. But in a landscape where Disney continues to remake its animated catalogue in slightly different, and usually less interesting, forms whether "live action" or "photorealistic" that usually only serves to remind how good the 2D animation was, originality is not to be undervalued.

And this story isn't simply checking off fan service boxes and overexplaining origins that never needed them: It's actually good. A prequel to "The Lion King," opening in theaters Thursday, it's a tale of found family, betrayal and destiny, one that begins to explain the estrangement between brothers Scar and Mufasa that we all know will end in murder; how Mufasa (Aaron Pierre) ends up as king of the pride lands and, perhaps

most importantly, why only one has an English accent.

In this telling, Scar was once Taka (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), destined to be king of his pride, and Mufasa was a lost cub, separated from his parents in a dramatic flood. Taka saves Mufasa and brings him into his family. His mother (Thandiwe Newton) embraces the newcomer; his father (Lennie James) rejects him as nothing but a stray. Not that it matters much to the cubs; both are thrilled to have a brother. They play and protect one another and grow up together. But fissures start to appear in this foundation as Mufasa emerges as the exceptional one and Taka as the coward. And then a lioness enters the picture in Sarabi (Tiffany Boone). We've all seen enough movies to know what happens with that.

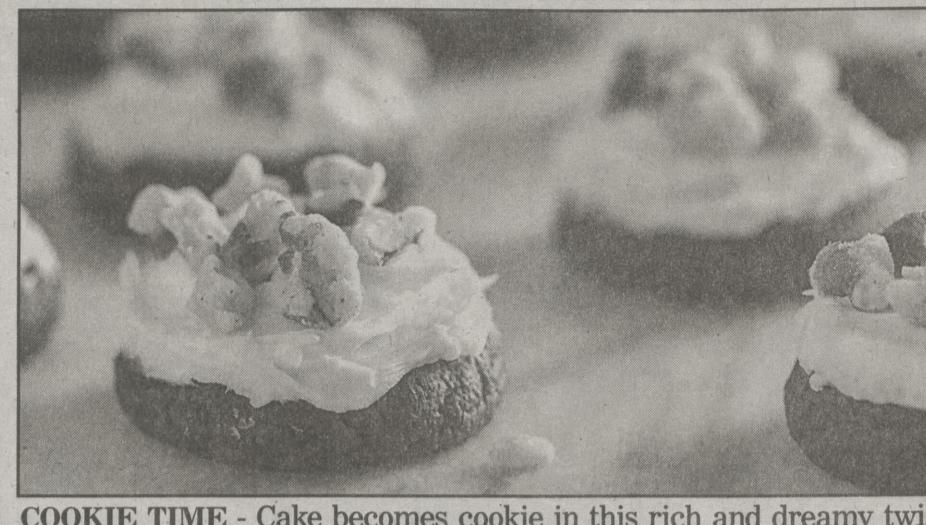
The screenplay comes from veteran screenwriter Jeff Nathanson, whose credits include the 2019 "Lion King," this year's lovely "Young Woman and the Sea" and "Catch Me If You Can." He clearly took a cor-

porate mandate (give us more "Lion King") and made the absolute least cynical version of that. There are still questionable corporate-feeling choices, like straining to tie it to a current and future "Lion King" by having Rafiki (John Kani) tell the story to Simba (Donald Glover) and Nala's (Beyoncé) daughter Kiara (Blue Ivy Carter), Pumbaa (Seth Rogen) and Timon (Billy Eichner). These comedic breaks, and Lin-Manuel Miranda's songs peppered throughout, aren't additive. They really only serve to break up the momentum of the compelling main story.

But the biggest issue remains the form itself. The photo-realistic computer-generated animals may have technically improved since the 2019 "Lion King," but they still aren't movie stars like their 2D animation counterparts. Impressive though it may be intellectually, the reality of watching these animals for two hours is a somewhat numbing and dull experience despite the best efforts of director

## HomeNewsHere RECIPE

### RED VELVET RICH AND CREAMY COOKIES



**COOKIE TIME** - Cake becomes cookie in this rich and dreamy twist on the classic taste of red velvet cake. Make yourself look like a professional pastry chef with cookies that look the part. These red velvet cookies are easy to make too. No holiday dessert table is complete without these red velvet cookies with cream cheese frosting.

#### STEPS

covered at room temperature.

1. Heat oven to 375°F. In large bowl, stir cookie mix, cocoa, butter, sour cream, food color and egg until soft dough forms.

2. Roll dough into 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet.

3. Bake 8 to 9 minutes or until set. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely, about 15 minutes.

4. Frost cooled cookies with frosting. Sprinkle with nuts. Store tightly.

#### EXPERT TIPS

For even baking, make sure cookies are of the same shape and size.

Be sure to use unsweetened baking cocoa found in the baking aisle for these cookies.

If using 20% more cookie mix, add 1 tablespoon water with the mix, butter and egg.

Rich & Creamy Cream Cheese Frosting



#### INGREDIENTS:

• 1 pouch (17.5 oz) Betty Crocker™ Sugar Cookie Mix

• 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa

• 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened

• 1/4 cup sour cream

• 1 tablespoon red food color

• 1 egg

• 3/4 to 1 cup from 1 tub (16 oz) Betty Crocker™

• Rich & Creamy Cream Cheese Frosting

• 1/4 cup chopped nuts

Barry Jenkins. The Oscar-winning filmmaker of "Moonlight" did an admirable job adding visual interest and color into the landscapes, bringing it closer to the vibrancy of animation than ever before, and making it as cinematic as possible. The original story also helps here in that he was never going to have to recreate iconic sequences in a less stimulating form. There are just inherent limitations that filmmakers

have not yet figured out, including how odd it looks for these animals' mouths to be moving and speaking English words. It's strangest when they're singing, mouths agape to hold the long notes in a way that no lion's mouth should ever appear.

If this is one future for filmmaking there's still a lot of room for improvement and experimentation. That doesn't mean it shouldn't be embraced while the kinks

are worked out. But it also doesn't mean the moviegoing public has to get excited about every rehash. "Mufasa: The Lion King" is better than the ones that came before it, but that doesn't mean it's great.

"Mufasa: The Lion King," a Walt Disney Studios release in theaters Thursday, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for "peril, action/violence and some thematic elements."

## SCHOOL FROM B-1

ates a high school, two middle schools, and four neighborhood-based elementary facilities, first began exploring options for replacing the Killam School back in 2018.

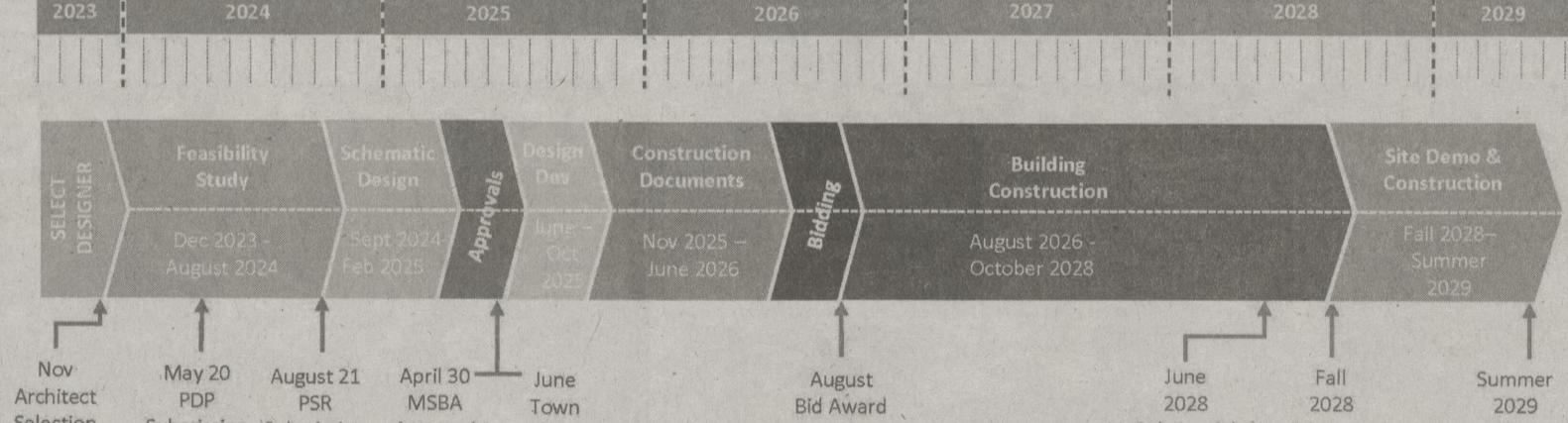
Erected in 1969, the Haverhill Street area school is hardly the district's oldest schoolhouse, as the town broke ground on four other existing education facilities at an earlier date. Meanwhile, the 97,200 square foot Parker Middle School off of Temple Street, which was constructed back in 1926, holds the distinction of being Reading's oldest schoolhouse.

However, the 57,000 square foot elementary school by Charles Street is the only remaining school in Reading that has not been replaced or undergone major renovations since first opening.

In August, members of Reading's 15-member Killam Building Committee backed a new school design dubbed the "donut" plan because it clusters primary academic instruction spaces around a center-massaged STEM space and a separate media center. The proposed three-story facility, which would stand 45-feet tall, would also include a gymnasium and cafeteria; 12 first-floor classrooms for preschool students, a K-5 classrooms on the second and third floors.

Originally constructed to accommodate up to 368 pupils, Killam School officials have struggled in recent years with space constraints that have forced building administrators to

## PRELIMINARY OVERALL PROJECT SCHEDULE\*



\*Assumes New Construction and Chapter 149 Procurement

convert conference rooms and specialized instruction areas into smaller special education learning spaces.

School officials, in an as-called statement-of-interest (SOI) submitted to the MSBA in the spring of 2021, have in seeking reimbursement dollars for a new school argued those space limitations will only become more severe in the coming years. In advocating for a new school, town officials have also pointed to a number of other building issues at the Killam, including substandard technological capabilities and woefully non-compliant accessibility features for disabled persons. Local school officials have also pointed out that the Killam School has substandard technological capabilities, is woefully non-compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and features a series of antiquated heating and other building systems.

Besides fully compliant with federal ADA standards, the new facility will also likely feature a state-of-the-

art energy system that is at least partially heated and cooled by geothermal wells.

In fact, just last week, Killam School Building Committee members voted unanimously to instruct project designer Lavallee Bresinger Architects to incorporate \$18.7 million worth of geothermal HVAC components into the design. Per that vote, the design team will explore the installation of 44 geothermal wells on the 7.2-acre parcel and connecting those pits to a ground-source heat pump. A redundant ventilation system with an air-source heat pump is also proposed.

The town is also considering the installation of solar panel arrays. The MSBA first agreed to explore a joint Killam School building project with Reading back in March of 2022 and will tentatively vote on whether to enter into the partnership in April of 2024. In order to cover the town's share of the project, municipal officials will likely ask voters sometime next spring or summer to sanction a

debt exclusion. Should it be approved, construction would tentatively commence in August of 2026, and the new school would open its doors to students in time for the start of the 2028-2029 academic year.

Since taking over the state's defunct school building assistance program in 2004, the MSBA has contributed more than \$14 billion towards school construction projects. Currently, communities partnering with the state agency are generally reimbursed for 40-to-50 percent of "eligible" construction expenses - which do not include design elements like auditoriums or athletic fields and complexes.



**EXISTING CONDITIONS** at the Killam Elementary Schools shows the school property situated between Charles and Haverhill Street.



## • Real Estate Transfers •

### BURLINGTON

14 Burlington St was sold to Memillan, Mark and Crosello, Joseph by Tran, Doan for \$1,665,000 on 12/03/24  
1 Elizabeth Ave was sold to Dejesus, Haline and Filho, Ouriel D by Hamel, Christopher and Hamel, Stefanie for \$1,500,000 on 12/05/24

29 Gedick Rd was sold to Misra, Arun and Dubey, Archana by Grh Homes LLC for \$1,930,000 on 12/06/24

12 Given Dr was sold to John, Sabu and Sabur, Jiji by 12 Given Drive Rt and Giangrande, Marie for \$850,000 on 12/06/24

1 Hillside Ave was sold to Rubin, Daniel E and Zeoli, Samantha J by Reed, Barbara J for \$860,000 on 12/06/24

6 Short St was sold to Wicker, Melisa P and Wicker, Cory J by 6 Short Street Rt and Busa, Russell D for \$846,000 on 12/06/24

### LYNNFIELD

385 Summer St was sold to Fantone, Stephen J and Fantone, Stephen D by Fantone, Stephen D for \$1,039,000 on 12/04/24

### NORTH READING

3 Barbie Ln was sold to Delisle, Steven and Delisle, Giulia by Shkolnik, Yevgeniy and Shkolnik, Maria for \$1,610,000 on 12/03/24

8 Charles St was sold to Knowles, Shane and Previte, Nina by Affordable Hm Soln LLC for \$2,050,000 on 12/04/24

24 Creek Ct #24 was sold to Iannetti, Richard N and Ianetti, Eileen A by Gerard, Jodi A for \$800,000 on 12/02/24

25 Hillview Rd was sold to Celiberti, Jeannie and Celiberti, Nick by James E Puzzo T and Puzzo, James E for \$823,000 on 12/02/24

260 Martins Lndg #7402 was sold to McGarry, Susan M by Epsimos Rt and Epsimos, Peter N for \$484,900 on 12/03/24

### READING

8 Elm St was sold to Charest, Brian R by Carvalho, Victor and Carvalho, Shana for \$589,000 on 12/06/24

28 Francis Dr was sold to Thompson, Stephen H and Dennis, Duane A by Aronis, Steven and Aronis, Cheryl L for \$975,000 on 12/04/24

104 Gazebo Cir #104 was sold to Nghiem, Xuanha by An-giulio, Briana for \$512,000 on 12/05/24

65 Grove St was sold to Hamdani, Adam K and Hamdani, May H by Harris, Joshua and Harris, Kasina for \$717,000 on 12/03/24

845 Main St was sold to Fitzgerald, Ryan and Fitzgerald, Anne by Jesus, Haline D and Filho, Ouriel D for \$855,000 on 12/04/24

8 Marla Ln was sold to Obrien, Matthew J and Obrien, Christina by Clements, Douglass J and Clements, Jean E for \$930,000 on 12/03/24

205 Pearl St was sold to Davis, Benjamin and Davis, Megan by Sweeney Ft and Sweeney, Daniel J for \$803,000 on 12/04/24

32 Pennsylvania Ave was sold to Kauf, Teresa L and Smith, Gregory L by Kelleher, Rory J and Riendeau, Molly E for \$1,130,000 on 12/06/24

472 Summer Ave was sold to Trinity Home Builders LLC by Burton J Synnott Irt and Anderson, Grace M for \$610,000 on 12/05/24

### STONEHAM

10-1/2 Gould St was sold to Pogeba, Kelvin D and Marthos, Luca D by Mark E Aldrich Sr T and Aldrich, Deborah J for \$740,000 on 12/06/24

Vernon Ave #18 was sold to 427 Lowell LLC by Upside Re Development LLC for \$360,000 on 12/06/24

33 Windsor Rd was sold to Jacobs, Jacqueline by 33 Windsor Road Rt and Lamarca, Marissa for \$865,000 on 12/05/24

### TEWKSBURY

6 Boisvert Rd was sold to Mcgreal, Sean P and Furtado, Brianna M by Sullivan, Patrick and Sullivan, Sarah P for \$594,500 on 12/02/24

28 Emerald Ct #28 was sold to Barry T and Barry, Sandy A by Carole A Beaulieu RET and Beaulieu, Carole A for \$592,700 on 12/06/24

20 Janet Ave was sold to Lewicki, Daniel and Lewicki, Janice by Barry T Under Decla T and Barry, Sandra A for

### • ME SANTA FROM B-1

The Cole Family, Hillsdale, NJ \$100.00  
Paul & Janet Bears, Stoneham \$50.00  
Kathleen Leland & Michael Benenate, Woburn \$100.00  
Linda & Peter Lydecker, Reading \$50.00  
Rich & Haley Haggerty, Woburn \$50.00

\$740,000 on 12/06/24

986 Main St was sold to 986 Main St Partners LLC by Bank Of Ameriacal Na for \$600,000 on 12/03/24

40 Mill St was sold to Epstein, Carol S by Willford, Lauren E and Dunn, Mason J for \$788,000 on 12/05/24

29 Patriot Rd was sold to Byron, Nicholas R by Dey Rt and Stewart, Mary for \$575,000 on 12/02/24

### WAKEFIELD

12 Avon Ct was sold to Spencer, Timothy and Pribble, Jessica S by Blackstone, Leah R and Rooney, Eileen M for \$622,000 on 12/04/24

11 Gerard St was sold to Brown, Michael W and Brown, Maria A by Leblance, Keith R and Leblance, Kerrie M for \$685,000 on 12/04/24

37 Gould St was sold to Aliberti, Elizabeth by Bhat-tacharjee, Anik for \$649,000 on 12/06/24

96 Gould St was sold to Tran, Kim by Miquilena, Ramon and Borquez, Ines M for \$652,000 on 12/04/24

102 Kendrick Rd was sold to Bell, Ryan and Bell, Tiffany by Oram, Jack E and Oram, Alice T for \$1,005,000 on 12/02/24

4 Overlook Rd was sold to Sramowicz Const LLC by William Joyce Lt and Joyce, William for \$400,000 on 12/04/24

31 Robert St was sold to Diamond, Alexander L and Di-iamond, Caroline E by Petrichenko, Eric and Petrichenko, Cassie for \$875,000 on 12/04/24

410 Salem St #1305 was sold to Dukas, Kevin S and Lit-tell, Amanda V by Flanagan, Joyce A for \$575,000 on 12/04/24

58 Tamworth Hill Ave was sold to Mordaunt, Timothy and Mordaunt, Stephanie by Clairmont, Amanda L and Teatom, Matthew K for \$1,105,000 on 11/15/24

### WILMINGTON

10 Darby Ln was sold to Desai, Jigneshkumar and Chaudhary, Shilpa S by Lily Oak Hill LLC for \$1,628,000 on 12/04/24

520 Main St #1 was sold to Mc LLC by Pci West Realty LLC for \$1,605,000 on 12/05/24

1 Olson St #A was sold to Fraser Ft and Fraser, Scott by Blum, Karen for \$539,900 on 12/06/24

35 Westdale Ave was sold to Bozkar, Berk and Bozkar, Berna B by Hassy, Jessica S and Hassy, Mark for \$1,005,000 on 12/05/24

### WINCHESTER

7 Bellevue Ave was sold to Aurich, Andrew D and Au-rich, Michelle M by Chevalier, Alec H and Chevalier, Caroline M for \$2,375,000 on 12/02/24

27 Cabot St was sold to Campbell, Brock and Campbell, Rachel by Rainey, Sarah V and Rainey, Michael E for \$2,900,000 on 12/03/24

63-65 Harvard St was sold to Pandey, Praveen K and Pandey, Garima by Harvard Street Obrien LL for \$1,071,000 on 12/05/24

25 Ledgewood Rd was sold to Hafer, Zachary and Hafer, Susanne by Donnellan, Mark for \$3,800,000 on 12/03/24

50 Lorena Rd was sold to Chevalier, Alec H and Cheva-lier, Caroline by Andersen, Martha E for \$2,899,999 on 12/03/24

968 Main St was sold to Fan, Mei-Jung by Childcare Properties LLC for \$850,000 on 12/02/24

63 Shore Rd #24 was sold to Boton Pain Specialist P C by 63 Shore Road Lawyers T and Marino, Vincent J for \$549,000 on 12/04/24

200 Swanton St #T26 was sold to Oconnor Ft and Oconnor Jr, John F by Charles Hurst Jr RET and Hurst Jr, Charles for \$377,000 on 12/02/24

### WOBURN

201 Bedford Rd #80 was sold to Salfity, Samir and Salfity, Lorraine by Noble, Laura for \$690,000 on 12/06/24

45 Derby Dr #45 was sold to 45 Derby Dr Nt and Eromin, Frederick W by West Woburn Dev Corp for \$869,900 on 12/02/24

17 Dewey Ave was sold to Giancola, Adam P and Giancola, Nicole E by Morrison Jr, John E and Morrison-Haney, Loraine for \$630,000 on 12/03/24

22 Hiawatha Rd was sold to Boyle, Samantha and Boyle, Dylan by Covino, Louis J for \$625,000 on 12/06/24

100 Lexington St was sold to Mitrano, Jerrilyn by Ann P Martin Rt and Martin, Ann P for \$1,259,000 on 12/05/24

649 Main St was sold to De Oliveira, Jose R and Degois, Rita S by Marsh, Patricia A for \$820,000 on 12/03/24

649 Main St was sold to De Oliveira, Jose R and Degois, Rita S by Marsh, Patricia A for \$820,000 on 12/04/24

3 Newbridge Ave was sold to Sloane, Nicholas and Sloane, Ashley by Carrai Ft and Carrai, Susan N for \$596,000 on 12/02/24

43 Richardson St #43 was sold to Wenzlaff, Rachel and Wenzlaff, Everett by Toomasi, Yasmine for \$561,000 on 12/02/24

430 Salem St was sold to Harrington, Ryan and Harrington, Maura by Jewkes 3rd, James H and Jewkes, Carmela for \$570,000 on 12/06/24

277 Washington St was sold to Carney, Matthew by Adams Robert J Est and Bonnin, Regina A for \$500,000 on 12/06/24

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A list of contributors will be published in Middlesex East throughout December. Corporations and individuals are encouraged to include their names as part of their donations as efforts are made to promote the fund. The "M.E. Santa" effort is actually part of the Salvation Army's ongoing service program.

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36 Commerce Way, Unit 410  
Woburn, MA 01801





## Tewksbury Police Log

### North Chelmsford man arrested for OUI liquor

Monday, December 16

1:03 a.m. - The homeowner at Pondview Lane were building something in their bathroom. She could hear electric tools going off and it was keeping her up. She did not want to speak to an officer. Police sent. Resident was just fixing a broken shelf but would shut it down for the night.

4:19 p.m. - The walk-in party was receiving threatening letters from his brother at Shawsheen Street. Police sent and officer filed a report.

5:20 p.m. - Caller stated a deer on the side of the road appeared hurt at River Road. Police sent. They reported one round discharged, requesting deer pick up be contacted. Deer was located in the vicinity of Baler Road and River Road by the telephone pole. Wild life would be picking up the deer.

6:04 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a patient was

assaulted by another patient at Saunders Building State Hospital. Ambulance and police sent. They transported one to Main Campus.

6:30 p.m. - There was a six foot white male wearing a hoodie who jiggled the handle of the caller's car at Burger King and was looking into other cars. Male party was wearing a black and gray leather jacket. Police sent. Nothing was found. Officer filed a report.

Tuesday, December 17

10:50 a.m. - A 911 caller reported a verbal disturbance going on at Residences at Tewksbury Commons. Male party was upset that he got an eviction notice. Police sent and reported civil issue between male and the management.

1:03 p.m. - Caller reported at approximately 11:15 a.m. today, a hispanic male, 30 years old and wearing a black hoodie and black ball cap, ap-

proached her acting suspicious at Walmart. The male party was looking around her vehicle when she came out of the store. The caller was no longer in Tewksbury and was certain the male party was still at Walmart. Police sent. They checked the area but gone on arrival.

5:15 p.m. - Caller reported property damage at Tewksbury Post Office. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

5:51 p.m. - Caller reported two motorcycles doing burnouts in the area of Foster Road and Colonial Drive. They were last seen heading toward Shawsheen Street. Police sent. They checked the area, but nothing was found.

7:43 p.m. - State hospital police department reported a physical fight, all parties separated now. Police sent. John Abreu, 39, of Massachusetts, was arrested and charged with a warrant for possess class A drugs and a warrant for possess class B drugs.

Wednesday, December 18

5:29 a.m. - Security company stated male seen dropping off a motor vehicle and getting into another motor vehicle at Ataman Honda, possibly vehicle swap. Police sent. Nothing appeared out of place and no sign of the vehicle.

7:24 a.m. - Caller stated male sleeping on sidewalk at CVS north. Police sent. Male stopped to fix his bike and was now on his way.

10:28 a.m. - A 911 caller reported a resident of a group home assaulted a female shopper at Walmart. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

11:13 p.m. - A 911 iPhone notification that there was motor vehicle accident at Andover Street and Sheridan Lane. Caller stated her airbag deployed and the other vehicle fled. Police sent ambulance sent. Sheila Rajan, 31, of 205 Manor Territory in Lexington, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor and negligent operation of motor vehicle.

Thursday, December 19

4:14 p.m. - A 911 caller stated she believed her house was broken into at Chandler Street. Her front

door was kicked in. Caller left the house at 2:30 p.m. and returned at 4:15 p.m. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

10:50 p.m. - The caller reported online threats at Marshall Street. Police sent. No direct threats were made toward the caller and the police advised of her first amendment rights.

Friday, December 20

6:09 p.m. - Caller reported two trucks doing donuts in front of the dance studio at Tricia's Dance Studio. Police sent. They spoke with the party and would stop doing donuts. Everything was cleared.

Saturday, December 21

12:35 a.m. - A 911 caller stated about eight people fighting outside at Brother's Pizza without any weapons. Police sent. They provided a courtesy transport to Motel 6. Officer filed a report.

3:02 a.m. - A 911 caller said a male was yelling outside at East Street and Yorkshire Drive. They were heading down to Shawsheen Street. Police sent. This male's vehicle broken down and he was just upset. He had AAA on the way and all units cleared.

3:31 a.m. - A 911 caller for male by the club house at Merrimack Meadows Lane yelling after getting out of the motor vehicle. The male was wearing sweatpants, t-shirt with no jacket. The male now back in the motor vehicle slumping over. Police sent. Officer filed report. Emmanuel Kirabo-Ssaku, 20, of 25 Dunshire Drive in North Chelmsford, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, registration suspended, and uninsured motor vehicle.

Sunday, December 22

12:34 p.m. - A 911 caller reported the last two days there has been an Uber sent to his house to pick up people that don't reside there at Ninth Street. Police sent. They reported vehicles moved along when approached location in the past.

6:44 p.m. - Caller reported his residence was broken into and items were moved around in his house and taken from the residence at Park Avenue. Caller reported tire tracks in his lawn. He wasn't sure if it was a relative or not that caused the lawn damage and entered the residence. Police sent. The call was a suspicious activity. Officer filed a report.

instead holding some of the boxes he was receiving.

Wednesday, Dec. 18:

11:23 a.m. - A caller on Main Street reported that a train gate came down on a black 2020 Lincoln Navigator that was driving through the day before, although both the gate and vehicle were undamaged. The caller was told to follow up with Keolis due to other reported issues with the train gate.

6:52 p.m. - A yellow 2017 Lincoln MKX and a tractor trailer were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the FedEx Center at Cornell Place. No injuries were reported.



## Wilmington Police Log

### Tewksbury resident arrested for OUI- Liquor after her car hit a telephone poll and parked vehicle

Friday, Dec. 13:

12:21 a.m. - Jacqueline E Lafourte was arrested on undisclosed charges. This followed her involvement in a motor vehicle accident near the Sonny's Mobile on the Run on Lowell Street.

7:16 a.m. - A green 2011 Ford Focus hit a person on a bike on Main Street. One person was taken to Lahey Medical Center by the fire department.

12:51 p.m. - Leo Maynor Eminian of 17 Parliament Lane, in Woburn, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, forging an RMV document, and not having a valid inspection sticker. This followed a stop of his green 1999 Volkswagen Cabriolet on Main Street.

Saturday, Dec. 14:

12:29 a.m. - Brittany Nicole Fix of 164 Bedford Road, in Woburn, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, not having a valid inspection sticker, and speeding in violation of special regulations. This followed a stop of her black 2016 Nissan Versa Note on Middlesex Avenue.

3:39 p.m. - A caller at the Rt. 38 Smoke Shop on Main Street reported that

two people came into the shop and stole items, one described as a man with a red jacket and the other a woman with a black jacket. Despite checking the area and searching security footage from the store, police were unable to find the shoplifters.

9:27 p.m. - Keara Alissa O'Sullivan of 140 Kennedy Road, in Tewksbury, was arrested for OUI-Liquor over .08%, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. This followed her involvement in a motor vehicle accident where a car hit a telephone pole and a nearby parked vehicle.

Sunday, Dec. 15:

2:31 a.m. - A green 2009 Toyota Corolla hit a pole on West Street. The driver was transported by the fire department.

Monday, Dec. 16:

3:30 p.m. - A gray 2013 Mercedes E350 and a black 2011 Chevy Avalanche were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Shawsheen Avenue that also knocked over a pole. Verizon and Reading Light were notified of the situation, three roads were closed while the scene was cleaned up, and one person was transported by the fire department due to back pain.

6:05 p.m. - A caller on Ballardvale Street reported that a package that had been delivered to

their house had been ripped open and had its contents stolen.

7:28 p.m. - A black 2015 Toyota Corolla and a blue 2022 Toyota Corolla were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the Sunrise Market on Main Street. Airbags were deployed, but everyone declined medical attention.

Tuesday, Dec. 17:

TEWKSBURY — Chief Ryan Columbus reports that the Tewksbury Police Department arrested and charged a Lawrence male and female on several drug distribution and possession charges.

Angel Peguero-Mota, 22, of Lawrence, was arrested and charged with:

- Distribution of a Class A Drug
- Distribution of a Class B Drug
- Possession with Intent to Distribute a Class A Drug
- Possession with Intent to Distribute a Class B Drug (two counts)
- Possession with Intent to Distribute a Class B Drug (two counts)

Mari Sousa, 44, of Lawrence, was arrested and charged with:

- Distribution of a Class A Drug

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, at about 9:20 p.m., the Tewksbury Police Narcotics

Unit was operating in the area of 1775 Andover St. as part of an ongoing investigation.

As a result of the investigation, officers conducted a motor vehicle stop of a gray Subaru Crosstrek that was occupied by Peguero-Mota and Sousa.

Peguero-Mota and Sousa were arrested without incident.

During a subsequent investigation, officers re-

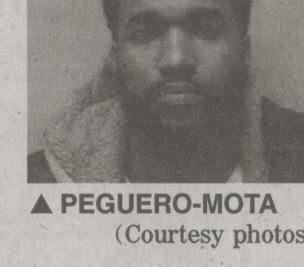
covered a cell phone, about \$305 in cash, a small bag of a white rock-like substance later determined to be 8.8 grams of crack cocaine, two small bags of a white powdery substance later determined to be 4.6 grams of cocaine, and a small bag of a hard brown substance later determined to be 4.4 grams of fentanyl on Peguero-Mota's person.

Officers found a lighter, \$20 in cash, and an empty glass cylinder pipe on Sousa's person.

Peguero-Mota and Sousa were scheduled to be arraigned in Lowell District Court on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

These are allegations. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### Lawrence residents charged with several drug offenses



▲ PEQUERO-MOTA

(Courtesy photos)



▲ SOUSA

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### North Andover man charged following motor vehicle break-ins

• Larceny Under \$1,200 (Four Counts)

On March 25, Tewksbury police responded to Charme Road for a report of a car being stolen. The vehicle was later found; however, multiple personal items — including credit cards — were missing. Police then began to receive more reports of residents whose cars appeared to have been broken into or taken.

Gianfranco Gonzalez, 23, of North Andover, was arrested and charged with the following:

- Larceny of Motor Vehicle (Two Counts)
- Breaking and Entering of Vehicle in the Nighttime (12 Counts)
- Larceny Over \$1,200

During a preliminary investigation, it was determined that approxi-

and Pupkis Road. Through an extensive investigation, Tewksbury police detectives identified the suspect, who was determined to be Gonzalez.

A warrant was issued for Gonzalez's arrest.

Gonzalez was arrested without incident on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Gonzalez was arraigned in Lowell District Court on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Tewksbury police would like to thank mutual aid partners for their assistance in this investigation.

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Tewksbury police would like to thank mutual aid partners for their assistance in this investigation.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024

# Another banner day for Shawsheen Tech wrestling

By JASON COOKE  
Sports Correspondent  
sports@yourtowncrier.com

LOWELL — Make that three titles in just over two weeks for Shawsheen Tech.

After besting Foxborough in the Division 5 Super Bowl earlier in the month, the Rams have already claimed two other titles in the ensuing winter season.

Amassing 222.5 points in the 57th annual George Bos-

si Lowell Holiday Wrestling Tournament, Shawsheen cleared the 68-team field while producing two champions along the way.

Billerica residents James and Sid Tildsley both claimed titles in their respective weight classes in Lowell. Both were key cogs on the Super Bowl-winning football squad.

The brothers chiseled their names in the record books at Lowell, becoming the fourth and fifth wrest-

lers to win four consecutive titles in the tournament. James is only a junior — his first crown came as an eighth grader.

Sid made easy work of the 144-pound weight class, cruising to Saturday's final at the Tsongas Center having put forth three pins as well as a 17-2 decision.

His championship bout with Milford's Aidan Baum was the closest. In a marathon of a duel, Sid ultimately came away with a

4-1 decision to rule his bracket in the prestigious tournament for the fourth and final time of his decorated career.

"To be able to come out and have a winded match like I did and to be able to be in shape to come out and try to win four is great," he said. "He cites his football conditioning for how he was able to sustain a match of that caliber this early in the season.

"Strength-wise and muscle-wise you get a little lactic acid, but wind-wise I was breathing fine," he continued. "Especially playing in Gillette when (it was freezing)."

Just minutes after his triumph, James stepped onto the exact mat in the Mill City in the 150 finals.

His match was not nearly as contested. James pinned Antonio Arguello of Newtown at 1:23 to cap off the clean sweep of pins at the Bossi tournament.

"I really wasn't expecting to do that," he said of the fast pin. "He's a pretty good kid, but I was patient with him at first and caught him with a mistake he had."

James was 5-0 in total, including a forfeit, and each victory came by means of a pin.

"It was great to do it with him," he said of winning with his brother. "We just went through our routine and we got it done. It's been a lot of good stuff happening with the Super Bowl. I'm thankful."

Shawsheen yielded place-

finishers left and right. Logan Holmes (175, fourth), Tristan Lane (138, fifth), Jayden Perez (106, sixth), Brayton Carbone (132, sixth), and Quinn Carbone (157, eighth) rounded out the point scorers on the way to Shawsheen's team crown.

The previous weekend, the Rams won the 39th Annual Blue Devil Classic in Salem, N.H.

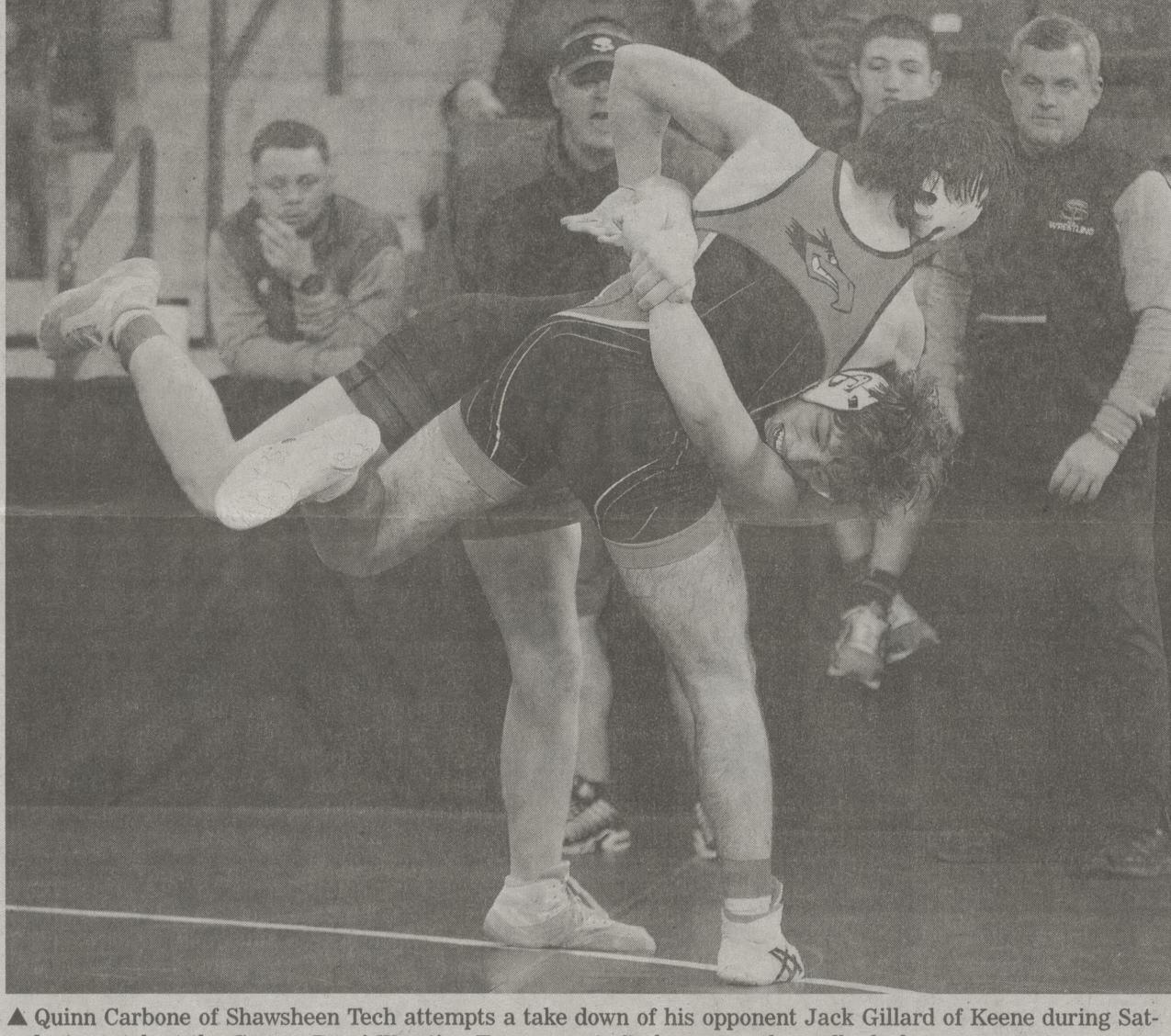
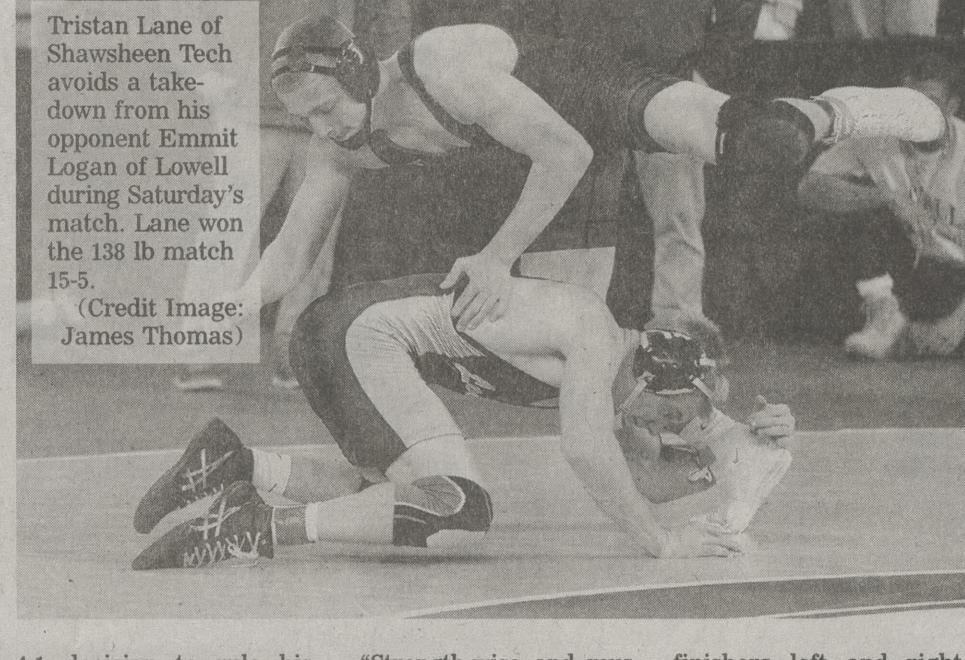
Shawsheen scored 268 team points, almost 80 points ahead of runner-up Concord, N.H.

The Tildsley Brothers dominated the day earning themselves their fourth consecutive championship each.

Junior Logan Holmes and freshman Tristan Lane also were crowned champions at 175 and 144 pounds, respectively.

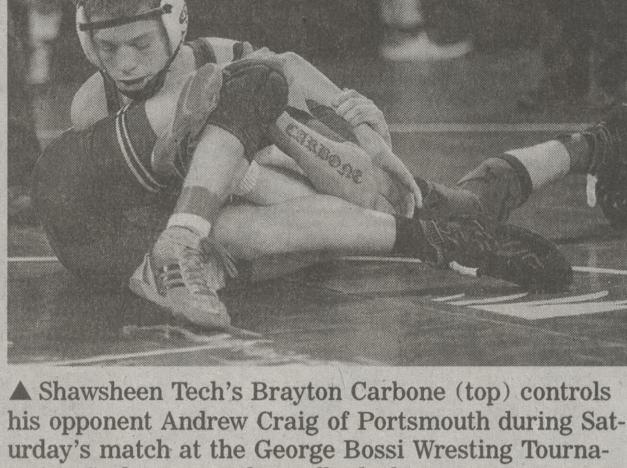
Shawsheen also sent a team to the Wilmington Sons of Italy Tournament, scoring 198 points, finishing in second place.

Sophomore Quinn Carbone and junior Ethan Caceres each took home Wilmington titles at 165 pounds and 120 pounds.



▲ Quinn Carbone of Shawsheen Tech attempts a take down of his opponent Jack Gillard of Keene during Saturday's match at the George Bossi Wrestling Tournament. Carbone won the 157lb clash 9-6.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Brayton Carbone (top) controls his opponent Andrew Craig of Portsmouth during Saturday's match at the George Bossi Wrestling Tournament. Carbone won the 132lb clash 16-1.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ The Massachusetts Pirates mascot gets the crowd on their feet during a game earlier this season.



▲ Pirates quarterback Alejandro Bennifield gets ready to throw the ball downfield against the Sharks at the Tsongas Arena. The Pirates defeated the Sharks 26-21.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)

## Pirates to partner with Mill City Medical Group

LOWELL, MA. — The Massachusetts Pirates have announced that Mill City Medical Group will be the team's official medical partner for the foreseeable future as a result of a multi-year agreement. Pirates Founder, Co-owner, President and General Manager Jawad Yatim feels

this partnership will help keep Massachusetts a front-runner in the Indoor Football League.

"In regard to the success of the on-field product, your medical team plays as large a role as anyone within the organization," Yatim said. "This is an influential partnership for

the Pirates and we are thrilled to be working alongside Doctor Matthew Savory and his outstanding team of experienced professionals at Mill City Medical Group. I would also like to thank Tom Lee from Zozimus for his significant role in assisting with the facilitation of the

agreement."

The Mill City Medical Group was founded in Lowell in 2003 and has grown to become one of the region's largest private medical practices with a history of clinical excellence and a commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards.

Medical Director and Team Physician Dr. Matthew Savory is looking forward to working with a perennial power in the IFL.

"I am excited to be a part of the Pirates organization and looking forward to working with their players and staff. The Mill

City Medical Group is committed to doing their part to help the team have a successful season," Dr. Savory said.

The Mill City Medical Group has two locations in Lowell and a third in Dracut.

# Another successful event

## Ippolito Scholarship Foundation's board offers appreciation

The Michael Ippolito Memorial Scholarship Foundation would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers, the dedicated hockey teams, coaches, athletic directors, the Methuen High Athletics Department, the athletic teams' donations of raffle baskets, and the generous donors who have contributed to the Michael Ippolito Memorial Scholarship in various ways.

The support and commitment of all the people who hold Michael close to their hearts and will never forget him, have been truly inspiring. The countless hours volunteered, the teamwork shown by the hockey players, and the generous financial contributions have all played a vital role in honoring Michael's legacy.

It is through your efforts that we are able to pro-

vide educational scholarships to deserving students each spring, continuing the spirit of kindness and generosity that Michael embodied. To date, the Michael Ippolito Memorial Scholarship Board of Directors has been able to award more than \$8,000 in scholarships in the past two years. While Michael would be shy about this recognition, he would be so proud to support the students at the schools he loved so much.

In development is a website that will capture the 30 years' worth of stories that Michael authored through the Town Crier, Lowell Sun, Boston Globe, Fitchburg State Spotlight and Clinton Daily Item to name a few. These articles will be tagged by sport, player and date. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you for your un-

wavering support and dedication. Your contributions are making a significant impact, and we are deeply grateful for each and every one of you. No donation is too small, and every contribution is deeply appreciated. Together, we can keep Michael's spirit alive and ensure that his legacy of love and compassion continues to thrive.

With sincere appreciation,

The Michael Ippolito Memorial Scholarship Committee

The Michael P. Ippolito Memorial Scholarship Fund has hosted three events in honor of the former sports writer for the Town Crier including a basketball tournament and two hockey jamborees. The foundation has raised more than \$8,000 in scholarships in Michael's name.

(Courtesy photos)



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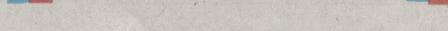
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